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Republican JOBS II plan pushes forward to create jobs, save jobs and promote healthier business environment

Lansing – Senate and House Republicans Wednesday unveiled the next phase of their comprehensive plan to jumpstart Michigan’s stalled economy. The second phase of the legislative JOBS plan – Job Opportunities for Business Success – targets tax relief to businesses that create new jobs and eliminates many of the barriers to entrepreneurial activities.

“Michigan’s budget problems need long-term solutions,” said state Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “These initiatives will improve Michigan’s business climate, bringing new jobs to our state and helping our economy improve.”

JOBS II picks up where Republicans left off by creating new job opportunities, saving existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

McManus’ district has had firsthand experience with the problem of an unhealthy business climate, having lost 280 skilled jobs when Tubelite and Nabco closed down their plants in 2003. McManus is strongly supportive of this next phase of job creation for the state.

“Our top priority must be making Michigan more attractive to businesses so we can bring in jobs for our hard-working families,” McManus said.

The JOBS II plan is a broad-ranging call to action on Michigan’s job creation front. Specifically, JOBS II would:

- Provide tax relief to businesses that create new jobs;
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds;
- Get broadband on Main Street by expanding Michigan’s Broadband Authority to allow for funding of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminate red-tape nightmares by creating a “bureaucracy buster team” to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses;

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- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business' personal property value;
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies;
- Simplify filing of Michigan Single Business Tax forms;
- Expand the use of private labs for state business; and
- Streamline U.S.-Canadian border issues by calling on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

Bills implementing the JOBS II action plan are being drafted and the Legislature could start acting on them within a week. Senate and House leaders both hope to have the entire plan on the governor's desk before lawmakers break for their summer recess.

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